Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 6, 9 and 20-24 without prejudice. Please amend Claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 15-17 and 27. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1.   (Currently amended) A method for supporting wireless communications, the method comprising the steps of:

allocating a first channel to support message transmissions from a base station to multiple field units;

allocating a second channel to support message transmissions from the field units to the base station;

assigning time slots in the first and second channel for message transmissions between the base station and field units; ~~and~~

~~maintaining synchronization between a selected one of the field units and the base station~~ ~~by~~ analyzing a <u>marker contained in a</u> message received in a time slot <u>to determine a timing</u> <u>adjustment to be made at a field unit to synchronize the field unit with the base station;</u> and

~~adjusting timing of the selected one field unit by~~

transmitting a feedback message <u>containing the timing adjustment</u> to the ~~selected~~ field unit.

2.   (Original) A method as in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

partitioning the first channel into active and standby time slots, wherein active time slots correspond with field units transmitting a data payload on a reverse link traffic channel.

3.   (Original) A method as in claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

detecting a request by a field unit to transmit a data payload from the field unit to the base station;

assigning the requesting field unit an active slot in the first channel; and

allocating traffic channels to support a data transfer between the requesting field unit and the base station.

4.   (Previously presented) A method as in claim 3 further comprising the step of:
reassigning the field unit a standby time slot in the first channel after completion of the data transfer.

5.   (Previously presented) A method as in claim 3 further comprising the step of:
maintaining synchronization between the field unit and the base station by analyzing at least one message received on a traffic channel and adjusting timing of the field unit based upon a feedback message to the field unit to advance or retard timing.

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Currently amended) A method as in claim ~~6~~ 1 wherein the marker ~~in a traffic channel~~ is a string of pilot symbols.

8.   (Original) A method as in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
dividing the first and second channels into a predetermined number of time slots to support periodic communications between the base station and each of multiple field units.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently amended) A method as in claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein the timing adjustment ~~information~~ is transmitted to the field unit over a paging channel.

11.   (Currently amended) A method as in claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein the timing adjustment ~~information~~ is a multi-bit value transmitted to the field unit notifying the requesting field unit of an amount to advance or retard timing.

12.   (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein field units are notified of time slot assignments based upon messages over a forward link paging channel.

13.   (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the base station analyzes a field unit message and determines whether to advance or retard timing of the field unit.

14.   (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein time slots are assigned in the first and second channel based on a predetermined offset.

15.   (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the timing adjustment is a single bit in a time slot that indicates whether a corresponding field unit should advance or retard timing.

16.   (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein message transmissions on the first channel are encoded using BCH.

17.   (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

assigning short pseudo-random noise (PN) codes for use by a field unit, a short PN code being transmitted by the field unit in an assigned time slot to provide an indication to the base station.

18.   (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein an assigned short PN code indicates a request by the field unit to transmit a data payload to the base station.

19.   (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein an assigned short PN code indicates a request by the field unit to remain in a standby mode.

20-24. (Canceled)

25.   (Previously presented) A method for supporting wireless communications between a base station and a plurality of field units, the method comprising the steps of:

allocating a first channel to support message transmissions from the base station to the field units;

allocating a second channel to support message transmissions from the field units to the base station;

assigning time slots in the first and second channel for message transmissions between the base station and each field unit; and

assigning a set of codes for use by a field unit, each code corresponding to a message that is transmitted in a time slot on the second channel, a code being transmitted by the field unit on the second channel to provide an indication to the base station.

26.   (Original) A method as in claim 25, wherein the set of codes is unique to each field unit.

27.   (Currently amended) A method as in claim 25, wherein the set of codes is a set of short pseudo-random noise (PN) codes.

28.   (Canceled).

29.   (Previously presented) A method as in claim 25, wherein a code of the set of codes indicates a request by the field unit to be allocated reverse traffic channels for transmitting a data payload to the base station.